

**OPINIONS AND DECLARATIONS
RENDERED BY THE INTER-
NATIONAL COMMISSION ON
ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE**

Edited by

FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.
Secretary to the Commission

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OPINION 236

Acceptance for nomenclatorial purposes of the work by
Morten Thrane Brünnich entitled *Zoologiae Fundamenta*
published in 1771



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INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

COMPOSITION AT THE TIME OF THE ADOPTION OF THE RULING GIVEN IN OPINION 236

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OPINION 236

ACCEPTANCE FOR NOMENCLATORIAL PURPOSES OF
THE WORK BY MORTEN THRANE BRÜNNICH
ENTITLED "ZOOLOGIAE FUNDAMENTA"
PUBLISHED IN 1771

RULING :—In the work entitled *Zoologiae Fundamenta* published in 1771 (not 1772, as commonly stated) Brünnich (Morten Thrane) complied with the requirements of Proviso (b) to Article 25 of the *Règles*, and new generic names published in that work are therefore available for nomenclatorial purposes.

(2) The foregoing work is hereby placed on the *Official List of Works Approved as Available in Zoological Nomenclature* as Work No. 4.

I.—THE STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On 18th November 1943 Mr. R. Winckworth (*London*) submitted to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature the following application for a ruling on the status of the nine new generic names published in Brünnich's *Zoologiae Fundamenta* of 1771 (attributed by Mr. Winckworth to 1772) :—

On the generic names published by Brünnich, 1772, "*Zoologiae Fundamenta*"

By R. WINCKWORTH (*London*)

I hereby apply to the International Commission for an *Opinion* on the status of the generic names of Brünnich, 1772, *Zoologiae Fundamenta*, in particular asking that *Tonna* Brünnich, 1772 (Class Gastropoda

Order Mesogastropoda) should be placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* with *Buccinum galea* Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 734, as type.

The title page of this book reads : " M. TH. BRÜNNICHII ZOOLOGIAE FUNDAMENTA . . . GRUNDE I DYRELÆREN. Hafniae et Lipsiae. MDCCLXXII ". The book, an octavo of 254 pages, is written throughout in Latin (left-hand pages) with a Danish translation (right-hand pages). In the Danish version the generic names are vernacular ; thus "*Ceratodon*" corresponds to " Narhval ". The new genera in this work require consideration as, although the author closely follows the Linnean system, and even keeps much of the wording of the 10th and 12th editions of the *Systema Naturae* (1767), no specific names are given, since the object of the book is to give a survey of the Animal Kingdom with tables of all the genera. Brünnich remarks in the preface : " Enumeratio specierum nimis foret proluxa ".

As an example of Brünnich's method I give a facsimile of page 246, in which it may be noted that the descriptions there given correspond very closely with the descriptions of the same genera in Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) and 1767, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 12) 1 (2).

I have stressed the close adherence to the wording of the *Systema Naturae* of Linnaeus (Brünnich was clearly acquainted with both the tenth and the twelfth editions), because, when that is recognised, the new genera can be directly interpreted from the *Systema* ; on that understanding species available as types can be listed.

Among authors mentioned by Brünnich, Brisson and Pallas are given in the chapters on Mammata and Aves ; " Pallas 1766 " is again given as an author on Zoophyta ; in the chapter on Insecta " ingeniosus Geoffroy " follows " Systematicorum princeps C. de Linné ". Of fifteen of the genera not found in Linnaeus, the authorship appears to be attributed as follows :—

(i) Mammata

To Brisson, 1762 :—*Lutra*, *Hyaena*, *Giraffa*, *Tapirus*, *Cerodon*.

To Pallas, 1766 :—*Antilope*.

(ii) Aves

To Brisson, 1760 :—*Torquilla*, *Galbula*, *Momotus*, *Colius*, *Ficedula*.

To Pallas, 1768 :—*Xanthornus*.

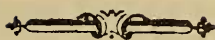
(iii) Insecta

Cryptocephala from the errata on page 254 seems to be a lapse for *Cryptocephalus* Geoffroy, 1762.

(iv) Zoophyta

To Pallas, 1766 :—*Antipathes*, *Brachionus*.

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*Molluscum,*

Testaceum,

Univalve,

Multiloculare,

Siphone interiori communicans,

Spirale rotundatum - - NAUTILUS.

Elongatum rectiusculum - ORTHOCEROS.

Siphone exteriori communicans - AMMONIA.

Uniloculare,

Spirale,

Apertura integra,

Dilatata,

'Testa cymbiformis,

Spira involuta occulta - ARGONAUTA.

Testa auriformis,

Spira lateralis occulta - HALIOTIS.

Coarctata,

Orbicularis - - - TURBO.

Tetragono-rotundata - TROCHUS.

Lunaris - - - HELIX.

Semiorbicularis - - NERITA.

Longitudinaliter oblonga,

Columella lævis v. plicata - - BULLA.

Apertura effusa,

Coarctata,

Linearis,

Columella lævis - - CONUS.

Columella plicata - - VOLUTA.

Columella & labrum multiden-

tata - - CYPRÆA.

Mollu.

There remain the following nine genera which must be regarded as new :—

(1) *Manatus* and (2) *Rosmarus* (: 38, also listed : 34). These correspond to the species *Trichechus manatus* Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 34, and *Trichechus rosmarus* Linnaeus, 1766, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 12) 1 : 49 respectively. In *Opinion* 112 suspension of the Rules was declined for *Manatus* Brünnich, 1772, versus *Trichechus* Linnaeus, 1758, respectively, but the status of *Manatus* Brünnich was not questioned.

(3) *Cercopithecus* (: 40, also listed : 34). The table separates *Cercopithecus* “cauda elongata” from *Simia* “cauda abrupta vel nulla”, so that the name is equivalent to Linnaeus’ section of *Simia* “Cauda elongata. Cercopithecici”. Sherborn gives *Cercopithecus* Gronovius, 1763, but the *Zoophylacium* of Gronovius (1763) has been suppressed by the International Commission under their Plenary Powers in *Opinion* 89. Quite apart from this, Brünnich did not refer to Gronovius in this chapter and the name *Cercopithecus* must, therefore, be regarded as a new proposal by Brünnich. *Opinion* 104 places *Cercopithecus* on the *Official List* as from Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 26, with *Simia diana* Linnaeus, 1758, as type. This decision, however, requires reconsideration in view of *Opinion* 124, which does not recognise the names of subdivisions published by Linnaeus, 1758, as being of subgeneric status as of that date, and also the recent *Opinion* 183¹, by which generic names published in the plural have no status until republished in the nominative singular.

(4) *Hydrochaeris* (: 44, also listed : 36) appears to be an emendation of *Hydrochoerus* Brisson, 1762, *Regn. anim.* : 80, and to refer to *Sus hydrochaeris* Linnaeus, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 12) 1 : 103.

(5) *Xiphosura* (: 208, also listed as *Xiphisura* : 184), clearly intended for *Monoculus polyphemus* Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 634, for which species “*Xiphosura Gronovius*” is quoted by Linnaeus in 1767 (*Syst. Nat.* (ed. 12) 1 (2) : 1057). By *Opinion* 104, *Limulus* Müller, 1785, has been placed on the *Official List* with the same species as type. That decision will need to be re-examined in the light of whatever decision may be taken by the International Commission in regard to Brünnich, 1772.

(6) *Orthoceros* and (7) *Ammonia* (: 246, also listed : 232) are separated from *Nautilus* Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 709. *Orthoceros* “Elongatum, rectiusculum” is equivalent to the Linnean subdivision “Elongati, erectiusculi” of *Nautilus*,

¹ An explanation regarding the present position of the name *Cercopithecus* in relation to the *Official List* will be published in *Opinion* 238 (pp. 351—360 of the present volume), together with the decision of the Commission in regard to that name.

which includes *Nautilus raphanus* Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 711 (the type of *Orthocera* Lamarck, 1799, *Mém. Soc. Hist. nat. Paris* 1799 : 80) and *Nautilus orthocera* Linnaeus, 1758 (: 711), a fossil, and other species.

Ammonia "Siphone exteriori communicans" can be interpreted from the pre-Linnean Gualtieri, 1742 (referred to by Brünnich and frequently cited by Linnaeus). Plate 19 of Gualtieri's *Index Testarum* figures three genera of Polythalamia ; these are referred to in the legend as (i) *Nautilus*, (ii) *Ammonia*, which includes figures of *Nautilus spirula* Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 710, and *Nautilus beccarii* Linnaeus, 1758, *ibid.* (ed. 10) 1 : 710, and (iii) *Orthocera*.

The case of *Ammonia* is a difficult one. If *N. spirula* Linnaeus were to be taken as the type of this genus, the name *Ammonia* Brünnich would antedate *Spirula* Lamarck, 1799, *Mém. Soc. Hist. nat. Paris* 1799 : 80. In that event, the name should be suppressed by the International Commission under their Plenary Powers, since the replacement of *Spirula* Lamarck in this way would clearly result in greater confusion than uniformity. On the other hand, it is possible that workers in Foraminifera would see no objection to the designation of *N. beccarii* Linnaeus as the type of *Ammonia* Brünnich.

As regards *Orthoceros*, the type must be one of the species numbered 240—249 in the section "Elongati erectiusculi" of the genus *Nautilus* Linnaeus, 1758. I do not think that *Nautilus orthocera* Linnaeus, 1758, (sp. no. 249) should be regarded as type by absolute tautonymy, for Brünnich's work is not concerned with fossils.

(8) *Tonna* and (9) *Cassida* (: 248, also listed : 232) are separated from *Buccinum* Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 734. Reference to pages 734 and 735 of the 10th edition shows that these new genera correspond to the first two subdivisions, "Ampullacea" and "Cassidea", of the genus *Buccinum* Linnaeus, as defined in that edition.

Tonna Brünnich, however, is used by many authors for *Dolium* Lamarck, 1801, *Syst. Anim. sans Vert.* : 79, e.g. by Dall, 1909, *Prof. Pap. U.S. geol. Surv.* 59 : 71 ; by Suter, 1913, *Manual N.Z. Moll.* : 314, where *Buccinum galea* Linnaeus, 1758, is designated as the type of *Tonna* Brünnich ; and by Hedley, 1919, *Rec. Aust. Mus.* 12 : 329. As already stated, I recommend that the name *Tonna* Brünnich (type : *Buccinum galea* Linnaeus, 1758) be added to the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology*. If the name *Tonna* Brünnich were to be rejected, the next available name would be *Cadus* Röding, 1798, *Mus. Bolten.* (2) : 150 (type : *Buccinum perdix* Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 734, so

designated by Woodring, 1928, *Carnegie Inst.*, Wash. 385 : 311 (“Miocene Mollusks from Bowden, Jamaica, Part 2”).

Cassida Brünnich, 1772, is pre-occupied by *Cassida* Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 362.

II.—THE SUBSEQUENT HISTORY OF THE CASE

2. On receipt, the present application was given the Registered Number Z.N.(S.)151. After an exchange of correspondence with the Secretary, Mr. Winckworth agreed that it would assist the Commission in dealing with this application if it were to have before it a specimen of a representative page illustrating the nature of Brünnich's *Zoologiae Fundamenta*. After further correspondence between the Secretary and Mr. Winckworth it was agreed to select for this purpose page 246 of Brünnich's book, this page having the advantage not only of being a thoroughly representative page but also of being the page on which appeared the name *Orthoceros* Brünnich,² a name of direct interest to the Commission in connection with an application before it regarding the name *Orthoceras* Bruguière, 1789 (File Z.N.(S.)44).

3. Mr. Winckworth's application was sent to the printer in September 1944, and was published on 26th July 1945 (Winckworth, 1945, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 1 : 113—117, 1 text fig.). The publication of this application elicited a comment from Dr. Curt Teichert (*University of Western Australia, Department of Geology, Nedlands, Western Australia*).

4. *Comment by Dr. Curt Teichert (University of Western Australia)* : On 14th January 1946, Dr. Curt Teichert (*University*

² The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature decided at its Session held in Paris in 1948 (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 : 312—313) to invite the Secretary to submit a Report as soon as possible on the issues raised by the name *Orthoceros* Brünnich. In pursuance of this mandate, an appeal for advice from specialists was issued by the Secretary in 1952 (*ibid.* 7 : 196—197). It is hoped that it will be possible to publish the Secretary's Report on this case in volume 11 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*, the issue of which will begin shortly.

of *Western Australia, Nedlands, Western Australia*) submitted the following comment on this case :—

In this *Bulletin* 1 : 113 R. Winckworth submits an application to the International Commission for an *Opinion* on the status of the generic names published in Brünnich's *Zoologiae Fundamenta*. The date of publication of this work, however, is 1771, not 1772, as usually stated (see also *Opinions* 90 and 112). The University of Copenhagen, Denmark, possesses two copies of Brünnich's book, one dated 1771, the other 1772. Otherwise the two copies are identical. Perhaps only a limited number of copies was printed in 1771 and only the reprint of 1772 attained a wider circulation.

The generic name *Orthoceros* was discussed at some length by C. Teichert and A. K. Miller, *American Journal of Science* 31 : 359—360, where it was suggested that it should be regarded in the light of *Opinion* 46. To attempt to find out what species Brünnich might have had in mind when he established this and other generic names seems to be hopeless and irrelevant. The name *Orthoceros* is, therefore, available for any more or less straight, elongate, multilocular, univalve mollusc with an internal siphuncle. Since such forms are not now living, it cannot be said that Brünnich's work is not concerned with fossils. Teichert and Miller stated that the name *Orthoceros* had apparently never been used in connection with a specific name and that, therefore, according to *Opinion* 46, any species, for example *Orthoceratites regularis* Schlotheim, 1820, might be selected as genotype. This suggestion was supported by Ulrich, Foerste, Miller, and Unklesbay, *Geological Society of America, Special Papers* 58 : 60.

III.—THE DECISION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

5. The present application was considered by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature at the Twelfth Meeting of its Paris Session held at the Sorbonne in the Amphithéâtre Louis-Liard on Monday, 26th July 1948 at 1445 hours. The following extract from the Official Record of the Proceedings of the International Commission gives a summary of the statement made by Mr. Winckworth, in introducing this case, and of the subsequent discussion (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 : 308—309):—

MR. R. WINCKWORTH (UNITED KINGDOM) said that in the *Zoologiae Fundamenta* Brünnich gave a general description

in Latin (left-hand pages) and Danish (right-hand pages) of the classification of the Animal Kingdom, including tables of all the genera. He did not, however, cite the names of species, as regards which he stated in the preface: "Enumeratio specierum nimis foret proluxa". It was evident that it was only on the grounds of space that Brünnich stopped short at the genus level. He (Mr. Winckworth) asked the Commission to declare that the generic names used by Brünnich in the *Zoologiae Fundamenta* were available under Article 25 of the *Règles*. He asked also that one of the new names published by Brünnich, namely *Tonna* Brünnich, should be placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* with *Buccinum galea* Linnaeus, 1758, as type species. The other new generic names published in the *Zoologiae Fundamenta* would need to be dealt with on their merits in the light of advice received from specialists, but it might be thought appropriate to suppress the name *Orthoceros* Brünnich, for, if *Nautilus orthocera* Linnaeus, 1758, were to be taken as the type species, it would run counter to the plan of Brünnich's book which was not concerned with fossils.

THE ACTING PRESIDENT (MR. FRANCIS HEMMING) suggested that it might be convenient to take a decision first on the general issue involved, and second, to take such decisions as might be considered appropriate in regard to individual names concerned. As to the nature of that decision, he was in full agreement with Mr. Winckworth that Brünnich's *Zoologiae Fundamenta* satisfied the requirements of Article 25 and that it was desirable that the Commission should render an *Opinion* to that effect. He was however of the opinion also that, in order to prevent the recurrence in the case of other books of doubts similar to those which had arisen in the present case, it was desirable that the Commission should recommend to the Section on Nomenclature that words should be inserted in the *Règles* clarifying the application of Proviso (b) to Article 25 in relation to books such as Brünnich's *Zoologiae Fundamenta*. The Acting President further observed that, as the Commission were painfully aware from their experience with Meigen's *Nouvelle Classification* of 1800, it was often very dangerous for the Commission to give a ruling that a given book was an available book without at the same time examining the effect of that decision on the nomenclature of the group

concerned, for such a decision, although perfectly correct, was capable of causing great confusion in nomenclature, unless appropriate preventive action were taken immediately by the Commission under its Plenary Powers. He accordingly suggested that the Commission should recommend to the Section on Nomenclature that there should be inserted in the *Règles* a provision prescribing that, where the Commission gave a ruling that a given book satisfied the requirements of Article 25, it should be the duty of the Commission, in consultation with specialists, to examine the names first published in that book and, having done so, to place on the appropriate *Official List* such of the names concerned as were nomenclatorially available and also the oldest available names for the taxonomic units concerned, except, where the adoption of any given name concerned would lead to instability and confusion in the nomenclature of the group concerned, in which case it should be made the duty of the Commission to suppress the name concerned under their Plenary Powers. It should be the duty of the Commission also to place on the appropriate *Official Index* any new name published in such a book that was either not available nomenclatorially or was not the oldest available name for the taxonomic unit concerned, together with any name which might have been suppressed under the Plenary Powers under the procedure suggested above.

6. The decision taken by the International Commission on the general question of the availability or otherwise of Brünnich's *Zoologiae Fundamenta* is set out as follows in the Official Record of the Proceedings of the International Commission at the foregoing meeting (Paris Session, 12th Meeting, Conclusion 2) (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 : 309—310) :—

THE COMMISSION agreed :—

- (1) that, where, prior to 1st January, 1931, an author had published a new generic name in a work dealing with classification down to the generic level but no further, it was not necessary for the purpose of Proviso (b) to Article 25 that in the work concerned the author in question should have cited trivial names of species

under that genus or other genera discussed in the book concerned, provided that it was evident that the author concerned would have applied the principles of binominal nomenclature for species if in the book concerned he had dealt with taxonomic units below the genus level ;

- (2) to recommend that words should be inserted in Article 25, embodying, in relation to Proviso (b) to that Article, the interpretation given in (1) above ;
- (3) to render an *Opinion* stating that, for the reasons given in (1) above, the generic names published in Brünnich, 1771, *Zoologiae Fundamenta* complied with the requirements of Article 25 of the *Règles*.
- (4) to recommend that a provision should be inserted in the *Règles*, prescribing that, where the Commission gave a ruling that a given book of previously doubtful status satisfied the requirements of Article 25, it should be the duty of the Commission in consultation with specialists, to examine the names first published in that book and, having done so, (a) to place on the appropriate *Official List* such of the names concerned as are (i) nomenclatorially available and (ii) the oldest available names for the taxonomic units concerned, save, in the latter event, where, in the opinion of the Commission, the adoption of the name concerned would cause instability and confusion in the nomenclature of the group concerned, in which case the name in question should be suppressed under the Plenary Powers, and (b) to place on the appropriate *Officia Index* any name found to be either not available nomenclatorially or not the oldest name for the taxonomic unit in question, together with any name or names suppressed under the Plenary Powers in accordance with (a) above.

7. The decision taken in the present case was reported to, and approved by, the Section on Nomenclature of the Thirteenth

International Congress of Zoology, Paris, 1948, at its Fourth Meeting held on 26th July 1948 (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 5 : 98—100).

8. The Ruling given in the present *Opinion* was concurred in by the sixteen (16) Commissioners and Alternate Commissioners present at the Paris Session of the International Commission, namely :—

Beltrán *vice* Cabrera ; Boschma ; Bradley ; di Caporiacco ; Hemming ; Hindle *vice* Jordan ; Jorge *vice* do Amaral ; Kirby *vice* Stoll ; Lemche *vice* Dymond ; Mansour *vice* Hankó ; Metcalf *vice* Peters ; Riley *vice* Calman ; Rode ; Spärck *vice* Mortensen ; van Straelen *vice* Richter ; Usinger *vice* Vokes.

9. The Ruling given in the present *Opinion* was dissented from by no Commissioner or Alternate Commissioner present at the Paris Session.

10. At its meeting held at Copenhagen in August 1953, the Fourteenth International Congress of Zoology decided to insert a provision in the *Règles* establishing an "Official List" to be styled the *Official List of Zoological Works Approved as Available for Zoological Nomenclature* and directing the insertion therein of the title of any work which the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature might declare to be an available work, together with any supplementary decisions which the International Commission might take in regard to any aspect of such a work (1953, *Copenhagen Decisions zool. Nomencl.* : 24). Since the foregoing provision applies to past, as well as to future, decisions by the International Commission in cases of this kind, the opportunity presented by the preparation of the present *Opinion* has been taken to record the insertion in the foregoing *Official List* of the title of Brännich's *Zoologiae Fundamenta* with a note that the date of publication of this work is "1771" and not "1772", as commonly stated.

11. The prescribed procedures were duly complied with by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in

dealing with the present case, and the present *Opinion* is accordingly hereby rendered in the name of the said International Commission by the undersigned Francis Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, in virtue of all and every the powers conferred upon him in that behalf.

12. The present *Opinion* shall be known as *Opinion Two Hundred and Thirty-Six (236)* of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

DONE in London this Ninth day of December, Nineteen Hundred and Fifty-Three.

*Secretary to the International Commission
on Zoological Nomenclature*

FRANCIS HEMMING